

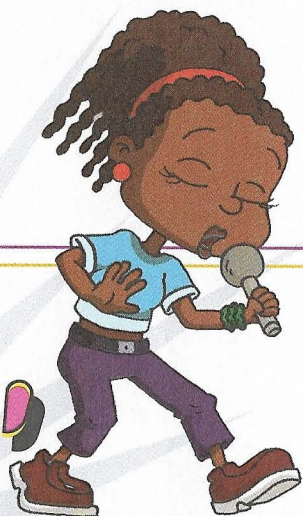
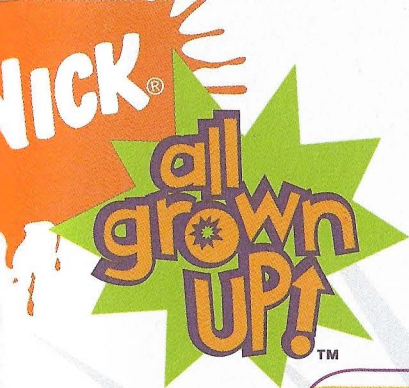
NICK®

all
grown
UP!™

Singin' the Blues



#1



Singin' the Blues

adapted by Jenny Miglis
illustrated by Larissa Marantz and Katharine DiPaolo
based on the teleplay by Sheila M. Anthony



Simon Spotlight/Nickelodeon

New York

London

Toronto

Sydney



Based on the TV series *Nickelodeon All Grown Up!*TM created by Klasky Csupo, Inc.
as seen on Nickelodeon®



SIMON SPOTLIGHT

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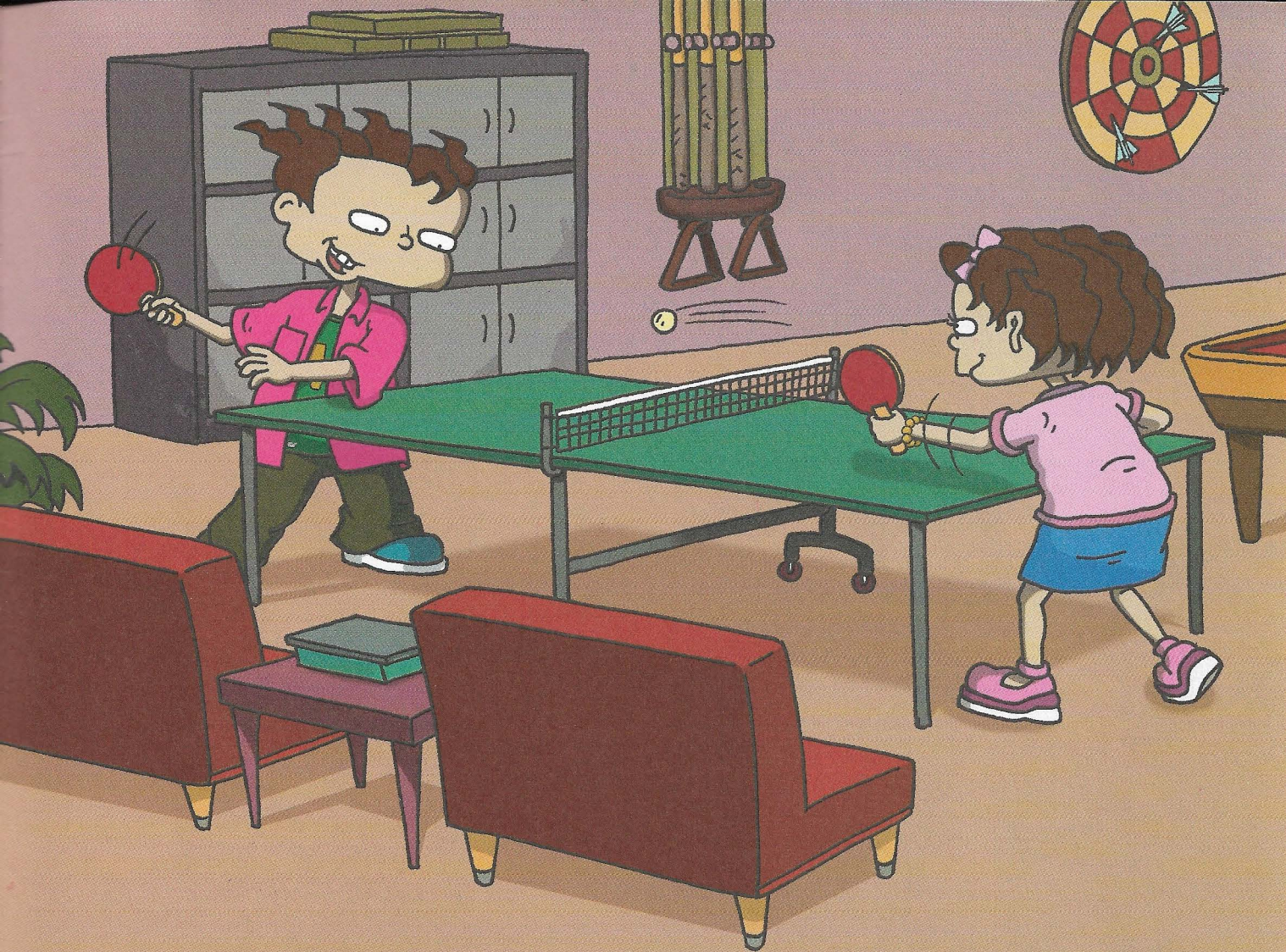
"O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave . . . o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave," Susie sang.





"You sound like my dog Fluffy after she ate the tinsel off our Christmas tree," Angelica scoffed.

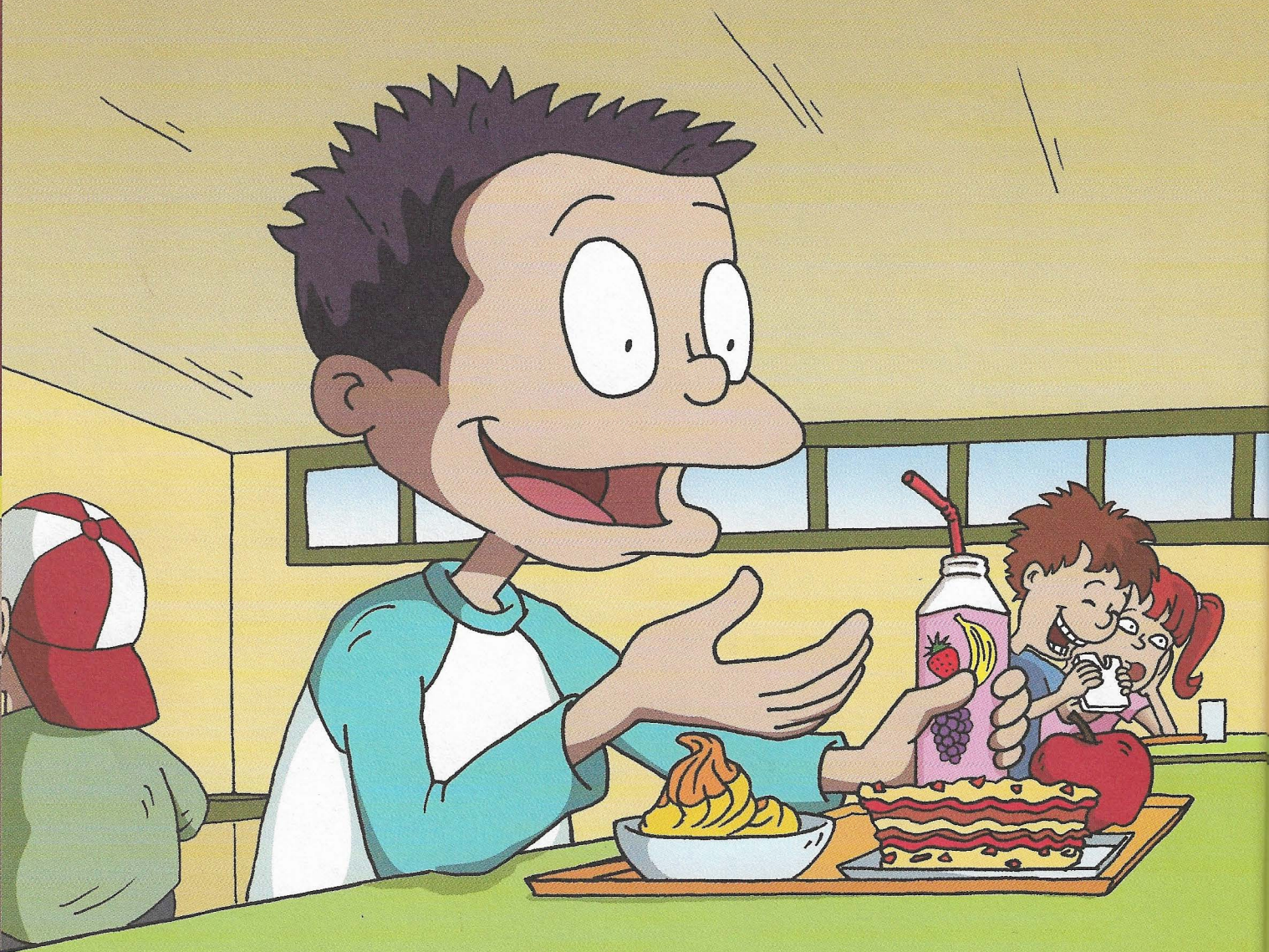
"Is that so, Screech-elica?" Susie said, snickering.



"Wow, you've got a great voice!" a woman standing nearby said, interrupting them. "I'm Beverly Jones, talent agent." She handed Susie her business card.

Angelica elbowed between the two. "If you're looking for real talent, you're lookin' at it!" she said, and began to sing and dance.

Beverly winced. "Call me," she said to Susie, ignoring Angelica.



In the school cafeteria Chuckie slumped in his seat.

"Look at my lunch tray, Tommy," Chuckie said, groaning. "Milk, cottage cheese, white bread, vanilla ice cream . . . I'm vanilla. Vanilla Finster." He sighed.

"Don't be so hard on yourself, Chuckie," Tommy said.



"It's Chuck now," Chuckie reminded him. "I need to make a change. Live on the edge a little. Start messin' up," he said firmly. "Are you with me?"

Tommy nodded slowly. "I guess so," he replied. "Someone's gotta keep you from messin' up 'messin' up.'"

"Do you think I could be a pop star?" Susie asked her friends later that day.

"You rock," said Phil, "for around here."

Angelica sidled up to Susie. "If anyone's gonna be a star around here it's me," she chimed in. "I'm singing at the Java Lava talent night. I even have backup singers." She shoved a thumb at Phil and Lil.

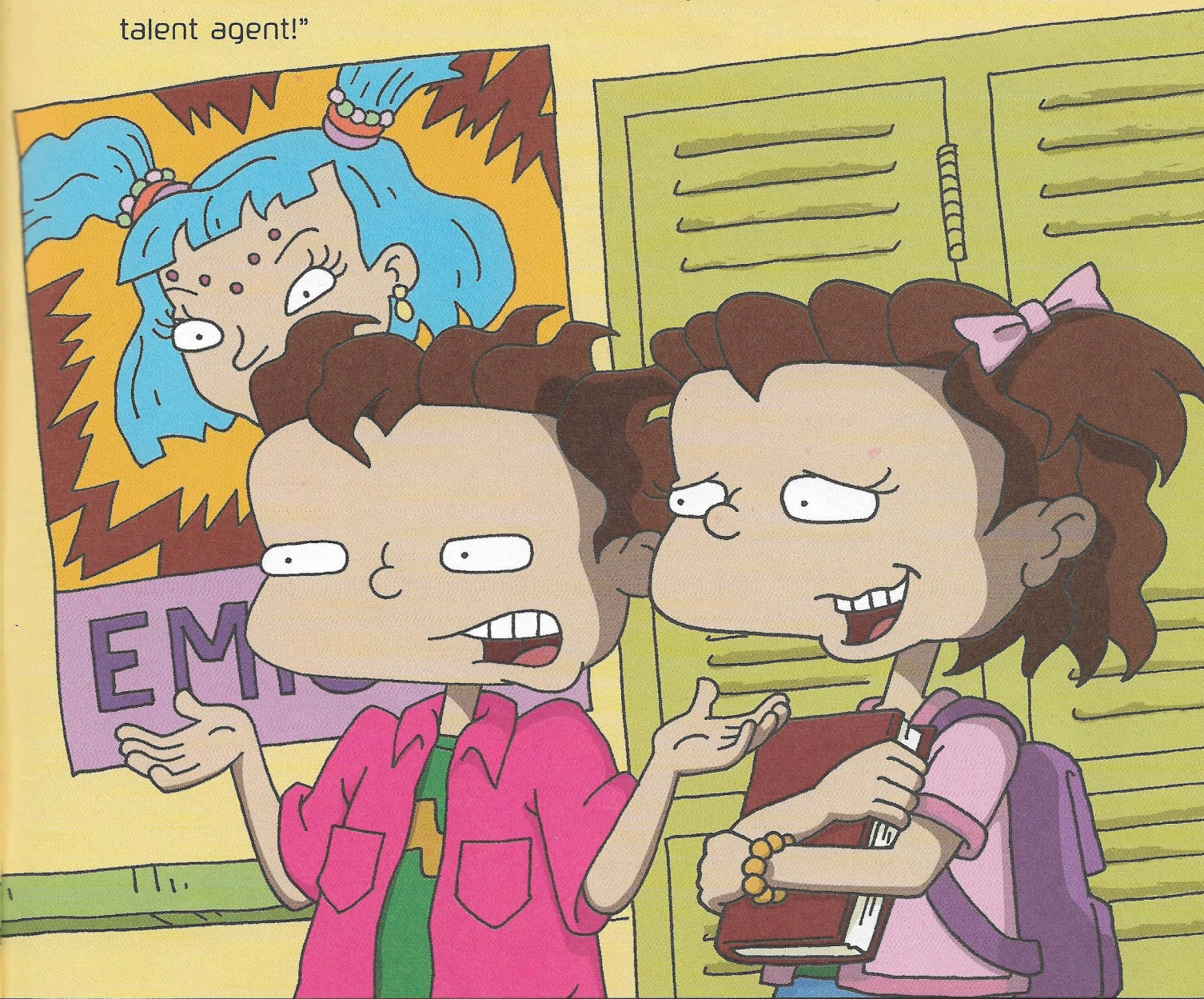


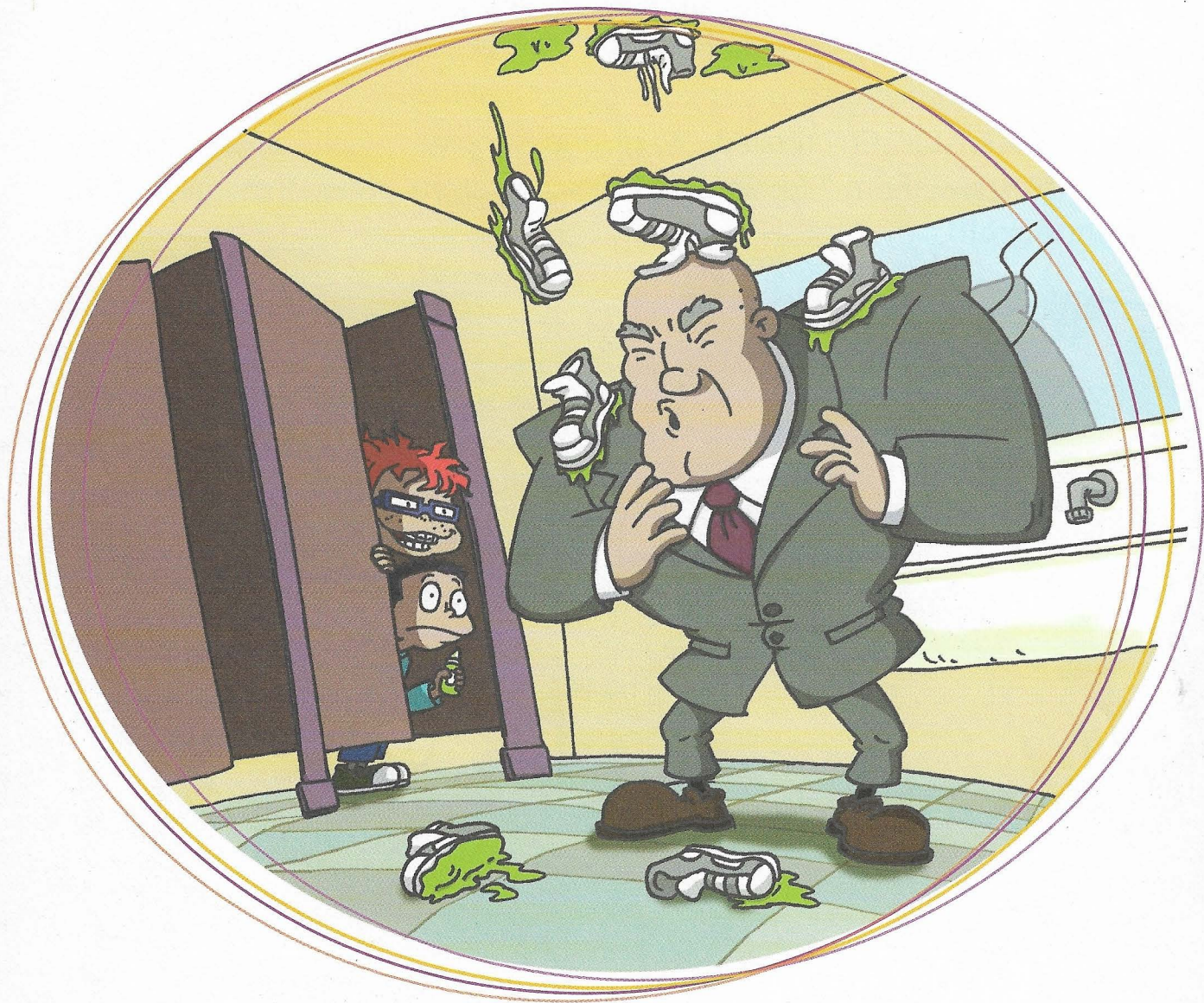
"Lil?" asked Susie, disappointed. "Phil?"

"She promised I'd meet cute boys," said Lil.

"Blackmail," Phil replied. "Pure and simple."

"I'll show them," Susie said as they walked away. "I'm calling that talent agent!"





Meanwhile, Chuckie began to live life on the edge.

Vice Principal Pangborn wasn't amused. "My basketball team is hopping on one foot!" he bellowed. "If it takes all year, I'll catch the sneaker snatchers!"

"I smell fear," Pangborn said, scanning the hallway.
"We're going down, Tommy!" Chuckie whispered excitedly.
But Pangborn continued walking.
"Whew, that was a close call," Tommy said, relieved.
Chuckie's shoulders sagged. "Not close enough."

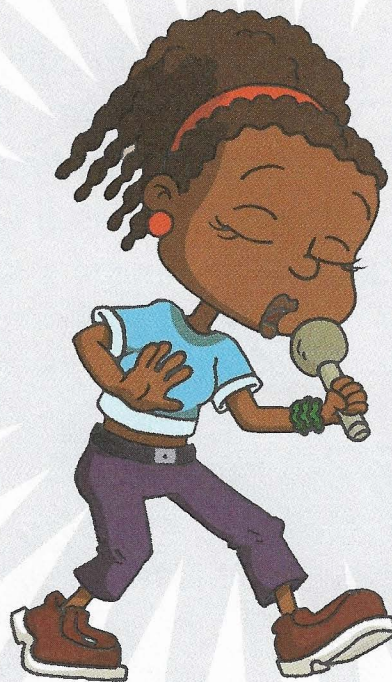


Susie practiced her song and dance routine for Beverly.

"By the way, who else do you represent?" Susie asked when she finished.

"Only the best," Beverly said with a wink. "And I've got a record executive from Pouty Girl Records coming to hear you sing."

Susie's mouth dropped open. "It's a dream come true!"



"But there's one small detail," Beverly added. "We need to rent a studio and hire musicians and a stylist. So I'll need a thousand dollars."

"A thousand dollars!" Susie cried.

"A small investment in your future," Beverly began. "But if you're not committed, I'll cancel it . . ."

"No!" Susie gasped. "I'll get the money. Somehow."

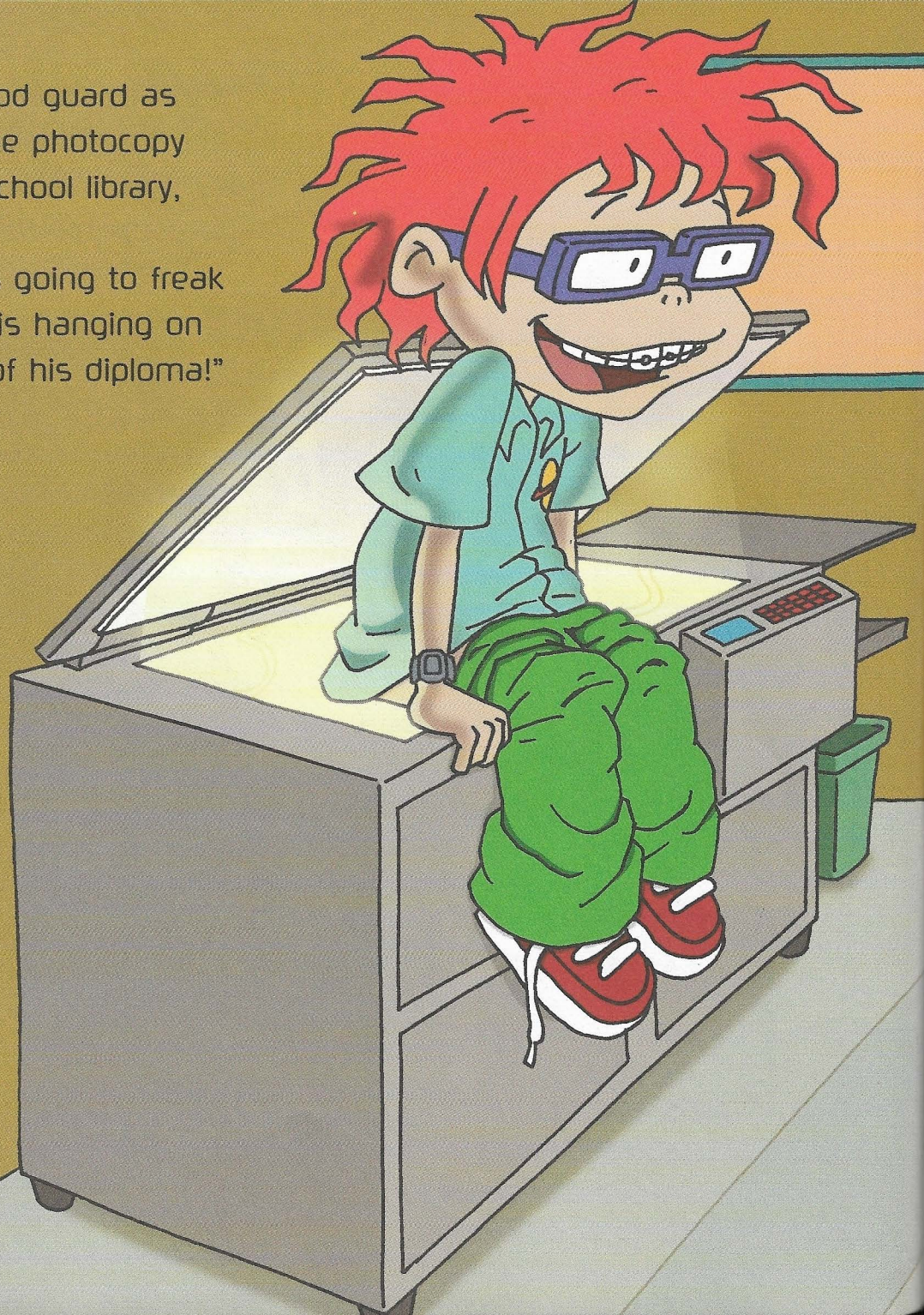


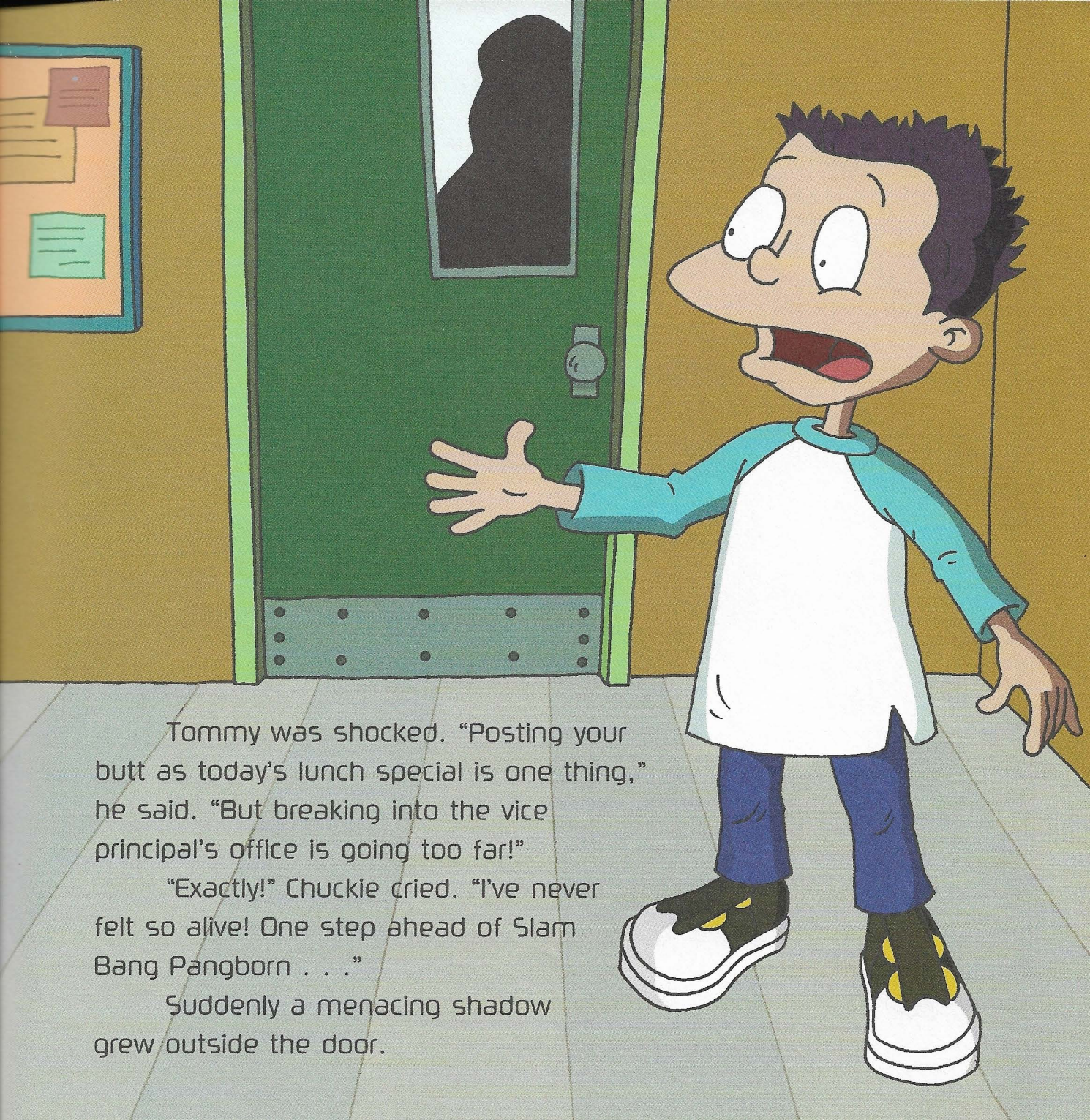
After rehearsal Susie went straight to her sister Alisa's house. If there was one person who would lend her the money, it was Alisa.



Tommy stood guard as Chuckie sat on the photocopier machine in the school library, copying his butt.

"Pangborn's going to freak when he sees this hanging on his wall instead of his diploma!" Chuckie said.



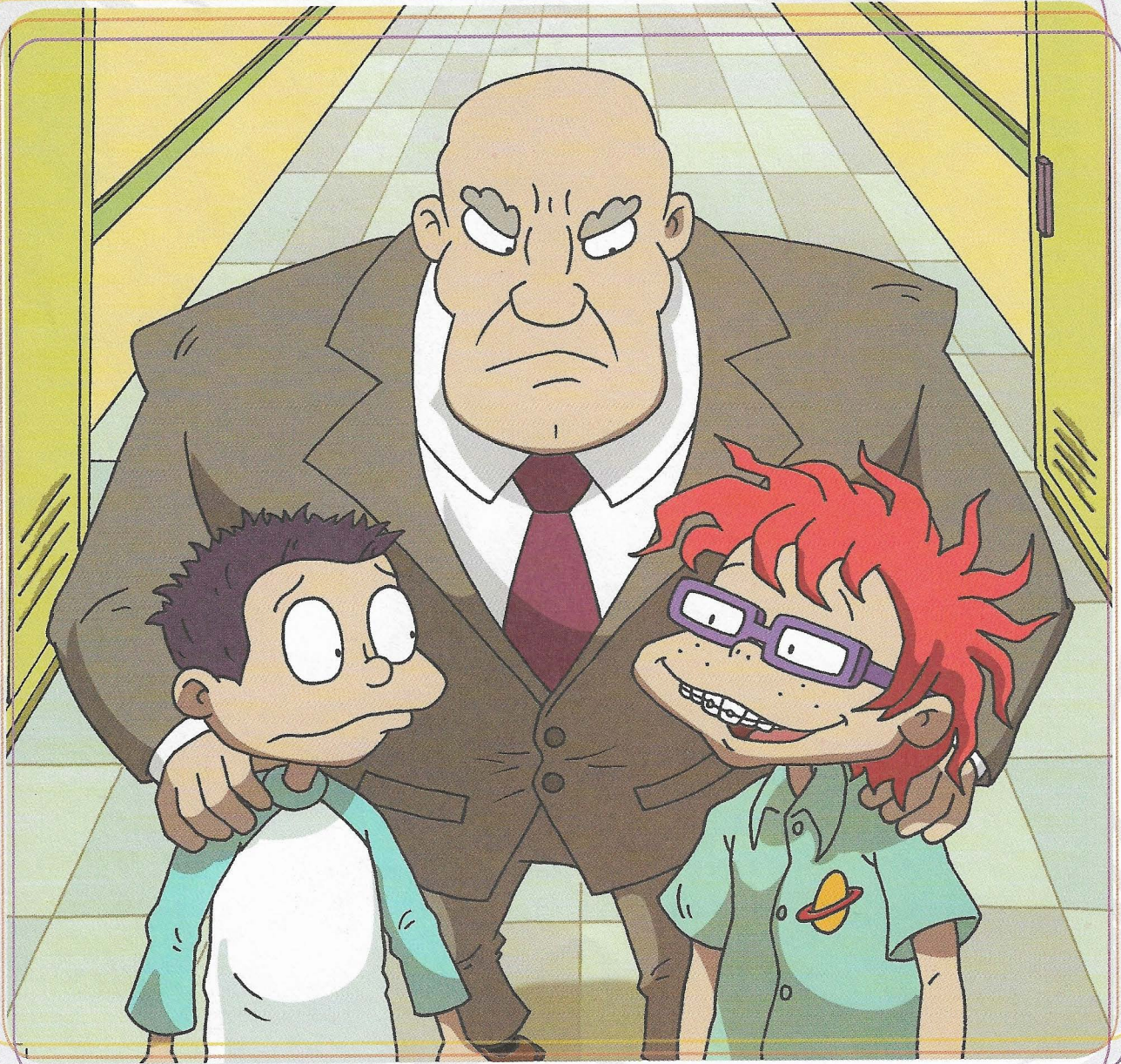


Tommy was shocked. "Posting your butt as today's lunch special is one thing," he said. "But breaking into the vice principal's office is going too far!"

"Exactly!" Chuckie cried. "I've never felt so alive! One step ahead of Slam Bang Pangborn . . ."

Suddenly a menacing shadow grew outside the door.

It was Vice Principal Pangborn! He marched the boys straight to his office.



Tommy spoke first. "We planned the pranks to get Chuckie out of his rut," he said. "But I thought he'd chicken out as usual."

Chuckie straightened in his seat. "Don't go easy on us, Slam Bang—er, I mean Vice Principal Pangborn."

"Silence!" Mr. Pangborn demanded. "Tomorrow you hoodlums will be chiseling dried glue off of the boys' bathroom ceiling. Dismissed!"



Susie had given Alisa's money to Beverly the day before. They'd agreed to meet, but when Susie arrived, she was confused. The address Beverly gave her was really an empty storefront.

"Excuse me, isn't a record company supposed to be here?" she asked a shopkeeper.

"Oh no, another one," the shopkeeper said. "I'm sorry, kid, but there's never been any record company here."

Susie couldn't believe her ears. "That's impossible!" she cried. "My agent gave me this address. . . ." Then Susie understood. It was a scam!



An hour later Susie was still sitting in front of the empty storefront. Kimi arrived to see how her audition had gone.

"That agent talked me into thinking I had talent and talked me out of a lot of money," Susie confessed to Kimi after she told her what had happened. "And my sister loaned me the money she had been saving! What do I tell her?"

"She'll understand," Kimi said, putting her arm around Susie.







Susie managed to tell Alisa everything.

"Something really bad could have happened to you. A lot worse than losing some money," Alisa said. "We should have checked out that agent first. But now that this singing business is out of your system, you can get back to more important things."

"But singing is important!" Susie cried. "I won't let some con artist steal my dream. Besides, I've got a show to do!"



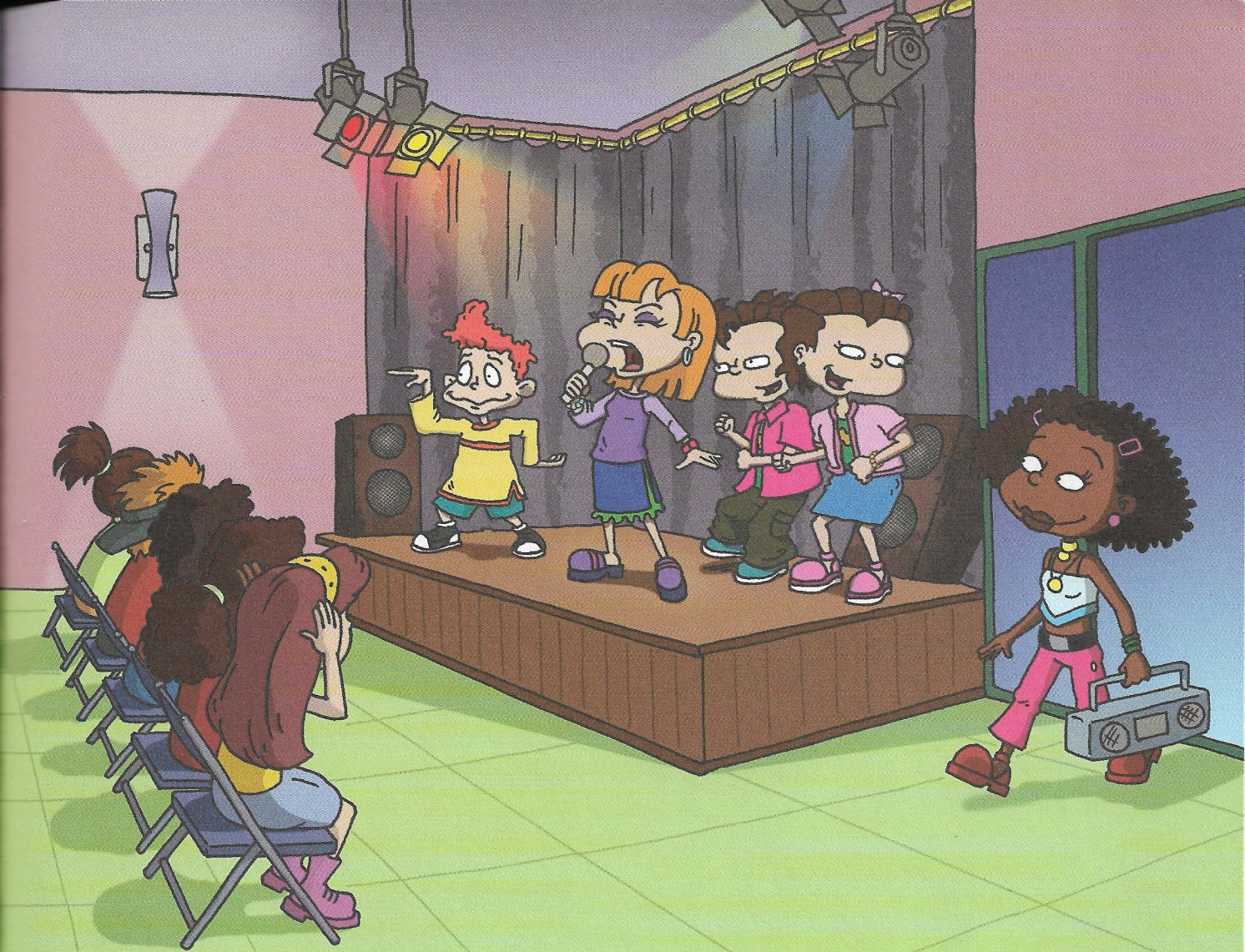
That evening the Java Lava coffee shop was packed.

"I can't believe Pangborn let us off so easy," Chuckie said.

"Are you still on this danger kick?" Tommy asked, groaning.

"What's next, bank robbery?"

Chuckie smiled mischievously. "Worse," he whispered. "I'm going to walk up to the most popular girl at school and say . . . 'Hi.'"



On stage, Angelica was singing in a screeching voice. Before long the crowd began to boo.

Susie arrived just in time. She confidently stepped onto the stage and began to sing, hitting the high notes like a pro.



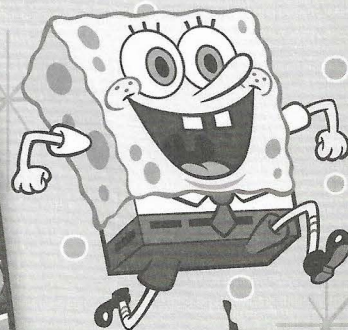
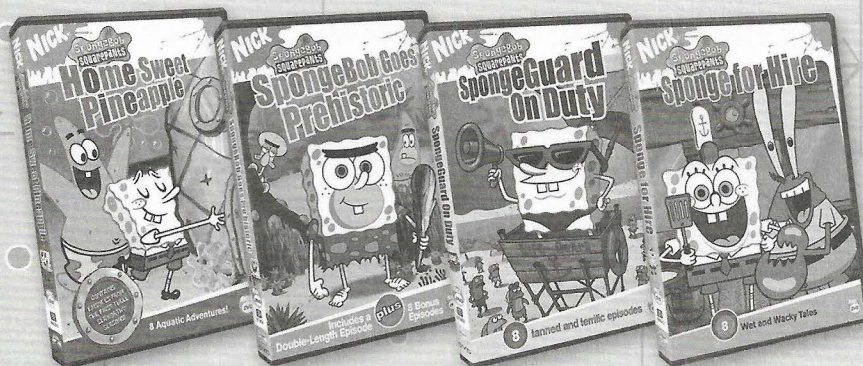
The crowd erupted in cheers, and Susie took a bow.



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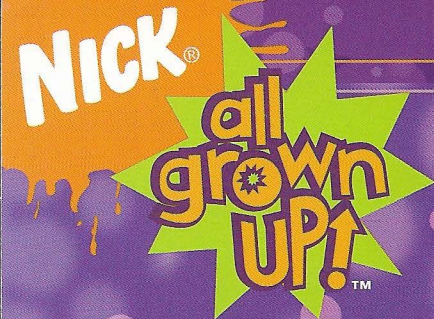


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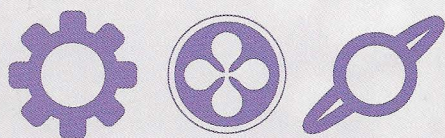


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NICKELODEON



Susie meets a talent agent who promises to make her a pop star, and it seems like all of her dreams will come true. But is the mystery agent really who she says she is? And when Chuckie tries to change his goody-two-shoes image by living life on the edge, will his pranks go too far?



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